City of Riyadh: Actions Towards Sustainability

The Right To The City – Bridging The Urban Divide

World Urban Forum 5 (WUF)
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• The City of Riyadh was founded in 1902 by King Abdul-Aziz Al-Saud.
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- Riyadh’s geographical Footprint extended from 2.2 Km² in 1902 to a build-up urban area of more than 2,700 km² within a development protection zone of about 5,000 km².

City Development Limits

1900 – 1940  2.2 Km²
1941 – 1950  9 Km²
1951 – 1970  64 Km²
1971 – 1979  180 Km²
1980 – 1996  765 Km²
1997 – 2008  2700 Km²

- 1St stages (Urban Boundaries)
- 2nd stages (Urban Boundaries)
- City Development Limits (Boundaries of Greater Riyadh)
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First Master Plan (1971)

Second Master Plan (1981)

Metropolitan Development Strategic Plan for the city of Riyadh (MEDSTAR) (2004 - 2030)
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POPULATION

• The population has increased from around 8,000 inhabitants in 1902 to more than 4.8 million in 2008 (about 19% of Saudi Arabia’s population).

• The population density is about 1,7 thousand persons per Km².
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POPULATION

- Population Growth Rate = 4.2%
- Male population = 56%
- Female population = 44%
- Saudis population = 67%
- Non-Saudis population = 33%
More than 50% of the population are under the age of 20 years.

- Population under 15 years = 34%
- Median Age of Saudis = 18 years
- Educational Enrolment = 92% (6 – 22 years)
- Total Manpower = 1.7 Million
- Ave. No. of Family Members = 6.3
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**HOUSING**

- **1.15 Million New Housing Units Are Required Until 2025.**
- **Available Residential Units = 748 Thousands**
- **Vacant Units = 6%**
- **Property Ownership = 56%**
Until 1932, Riyadh witnessed no major changes.
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  - Ring roads and arterial highways were laid out.

- 1st Ring road (78 Km)
- 2nd Ring road (122 Km)
- 3rd Ring road (245 Km)
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- **Strategic Planning**
  A strategic plan for the next fifty years, including structural development plans for twenty years, are being developed to:

  * Draw an overall strategic vision for designing and planning the future of the city and its region;
  * Guide the implementation of all future planning and architectural projects;
  * Control urban growth and sprawl of the city; and
  * Cater for future needs of the inhabitants.
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- The city’s architectural identity has been modernized.
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- The city’s architectural identity has been modernized.
- The people enjoy modern housing and urban amenities.
- The City parks and gardens are linked by an integrated network of pedestrian walkways.
Riyadh Municipality

- The first municipal system was established in 1937 with only 95 staff members.
- Today, Riyadh Municipality with 2,000 staff members supervises 15 sub-municipalities that manage the city’s 167 neighborhoods.
Riyadh Municipality

- **Role of the Municipality:**
  - Enacts regulations and monitor their implementation.
  - Establishes and manages public facilities and services.
  - Implements development plans at the city level.
  - Provides high quality municipal services to all citizens and residents of the city.
Riyadh
Municipality

Modern Vision of
The Municipality

• To humanize the built environment by providing a superior network of green open spaces and an integrated system of pedestrian walkways to serve the well being of Riyadh’s inhabitants.
Riyadh Municipality

Modern Vision of The Municipality

- To develop decent public facilities to encourage and promote economic performance.
Modern Vision of The Municipality

- To achieve architectural, planning, and environmental sustainability through:
  - Ensuring the integration and coordination of different projects.
  - Fair distribution of the growing facilities and services.
Riyadh Municipality

Modern Vision of The Municipality

• To foster the positive involvement of all citizens by motivating them to be aware of their responsibility in handling the city’s vital facilities and natural resources.
Enhancement of The Landscape

In addition to the initial focus of the municipality on providing public facilities, integrated services, and road Networks, the municipality’s current and future goals are to make Riyadh a model for a humane and green architecture and sustainable environment despite its harsh and arid climate.
Enhancement of The Landscape

- To attain these goals, the municipality uses a wide spectrum of regulations, operational projects, and development programmers. Among the most important are the following:
  - Expanding the open green areas and creating a number of public squares, municipal gardens and parks, and a network of pedestrian walkways.
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- Greening residential quarters, and providing the city’s road network with trees, plants and lawns to enhance their appearance, enlarge the city’s green spaces, and significantly reduce pollution.
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• Improving and protecting the natural landscape, and wildlife of the resorts in the surrounding deserts by:
  - Removing waste from these resorts.

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  2. The Wadi Hanifa valley.
  3. The development of the Thumamah wild park.
Enhancement of The Landscape

- Applying proper systems and careful procedures that are suitable for Riyadh’s desert climate to sustain the city’s green areas.

Such system and procedures include:

- Selection of suitable plants and trees.
- The use of remote controlled irrigation and water-recycling systems.
Environmentally Sensitive Practices

To protect the urban and regional environments of Riyadh and to achieve environmentally friendly, sustainable urban growth and development, some strategic actions were adopted:

- Formation of a higher committee of all concerned parties to establish procedures and oversee their implementations.
Environmentally Sensitive Practices

- The enforcement of appropriate designs that rationalize the use of natural materials and other resources.
Environmentally Sensitive Practices

- Laying down development plans and regulations for all uses of land around the city to protect the wildlife during the development of the desert resorts in: Thumamah, Hanifa Valley, and Banban natural parks.
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Developing programs such as the “Annual Cleaning Campaign” to clean up the open areas around the city to reduce air and other types of pollution.

- Thousands of school students and other volunteers join the municipality workers in the cleaning process.

- The campaign is encouraged by famous celebrities and motivated by competitions for prizes and awards.
Environmentally Sensitive Practices

- Developing programs such as the “One Million-Cleaning Campaigns” to reduce air and other types of pollution.

- Adaptive re-use of discarded land fills. For example, the transformation of Okaz land fill into a functioning public park. 
  Total Area = 750,000 Sq. m
Environmentally Sensitive Practices

- Developing Environment-Friendly practices such as:
  - The provision of an integrated and safe pedestrian network in most important parts of the City in order to discourage the use of private cars and encourage the people to walk.
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  - Improving the public transport system and encouraging the people to use it.
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To achieve a higher level of community sustainability, the municipality adopted the following methods:
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- Designing affordable and decent housing units that are effective in meeting the needs of a modern family.
Community Sustainability

To achieve a higher level of community sustainability, the municipality adopted the following methods:

- Applying modern standards for city planning which ensure that the residential districts and workplaces are safe, healthy, and encourages positive social interaction and community activities.
Community Sustainability

- Establishing a set of proper architectural and planning guidelines that suit Riyadh’s unique desert climate to govern the provision and management of public facilities and services, as well as reducing the cost of operation and maintenance.
Community Sustainability

- Developing the city’s urban economy through taking the following actions:
  - Provide an efficient transport infrastructure.
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  - Planning high-quality investments in housing and high-tech public transport system.
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Community Sustainability

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  - Provide an efficient transport infrastructure.
  - Planning high-quality investments in housing and high-tech public transport system.
  - Creating a wide variety of industrial districts.
  - Establishing urban administrative sub-centers with open areas and suitable architectural structures where modern services, facilities and job-opportunities are available. These sub-centers will be developed to relieve populations density in the city center and to apply the concept of a decentralized local governance for providing better services for citizens.
Planning for the Future

- Opening modern economic urban centers with advanced services and new electronic banking and stock-trading systems.
- The municipality has taken these actions aiming to make Riyadh City an attractive and dynamically competitive environment conducive to healthy local and foreign investments.

- It is also aiming to create a better city where everyone can enjoy and live with dignity, respect and citizenship.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME
&
HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON IN RIYADH